

August 2017

## The Bible (Sermon Outlines)

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### Recommended Citation

McInteer, J. (2017). The Bible (Sermon Outlines). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/mcinteer-sermons-topic/62>

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**HARDING**  
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# JUST HOW DID WE GET OUR BIBLE- THE WORD OF GOD?

I. Somewhere did God present a leather-bound book, 66 volumes in our language? Of course not.

II. God revealed himself in a non-verbal way: creation, providence conscious.

Acts 14:17 "He did not leave himself without witness..."

Rom. 1:18-20

Ps. 19:1-4

Ps. 29:1-5

Ps. 119:89-91

Isa. 40:12

Rom. 2:14-15

A. Yet the disclosure is limited.

1. Who is he?

2. How does he want us to live?

3. How can I have a relationship with him?

B. There were special spoken revelations.

1. Adam

2. Noah

3. Abraham

4. Prophets

5. His Son

C. Spoke via inspiration with the Holy Spirit guiding.

2 Peter 1:21

2 Tim. 3:16

John 14:26

1. Thus a written record.

Jer. 1:9

I Cor. 2:13

#### D. Old Testament

1. Stones
2. Clay tablets
3. Animal skins
4. Written 1500-400 B.C.
5. Hebrew - 22 letters, all consonants
  - a) Read back to front
  - b) Lines R to L
  - c) No vowels
  - d) Added vowel point
  - e) Some Aramaic

#### E. New Testament

1. Greek
2. Papyrus cut in strips crossways.
3. Large capital letters. (Uncials)
4. No breaks, punctuations
5. No original autographs

### III. Preserved

- A. Copies made by hand.
- B. Printing press 1450
- C. Scrolls
- D. Second century code and book forms
- E. Copy word for word from
- F. Reader abound to many who copied.

1. Some error possible.
2. Some with scribes editing it to make it say what he wanted it to.
3. Some variants unintentional alternate spelling, substitution of a synonym, repeat or omit.
4. Rules developed 100-400 A.D. for copying.
5. Maronites added Hebrew point vowels.
6. Numbered words, letters in each book.

#### IV. Preservation

- A. Leningrad Codex oldest Hebrew Bible A 1008
- B. Copied 2,000 years after written.
- C. 1947 Dead Sea Scrolls  
250 B.C. - 60 A.D.
  1. Every OT book except Esther
  2. Great compared to Maronite text.
- D. New Testament on papyrus
  1. Philom - 1 sheet
  2. Matthew - roll 30' long
  3. 118 papyrus MMS at least one or more passages.
  4. Some within 30 yrs. of NT original.

# "FOR WHAT PURPOSE EXISTS THE BIBLE?"

Romans 15:4-7

①

I. Some questions startle me and some new ages bring.

A. At Sikeston a lady asked "guess what my little girl said when she saw your picture 'there's the robber!'"

B. Do you plan to go to the moon? Fly faster than sound?

1. Few years ago this was a silly question

C. "For what purpose exists the Bible?" question didn't arise a long time ago.

1. It was an amulet

2. It was a source for winning arguments

3. It was a symbol of puritanical life

4. Why is it really here?

II. Have you ever thought what man can do to the word of God?

A. Wrest it <sub>15-</sub>

2 Pet. 3:16 - "They that are unlearned & un

1. Peter said he & Paul teach the same thing.

2. God is long suffering - yet no license to sin

3. Note Paul's letters were collected & circulated then

Regarded as Scripture

4. Some things hard to grasp - twist to our ruin

a.) Grace = an excuse to sin

b.) Freedom = licenses

c.) Faith makes works unnecessary

(are examples of doing the twist)

## B. Handle deceitfully

2 Cor. 4:2 - "But have renounced the Lord

1. Paul never lost heart in his great task. He knew what it was & thanked God for gift of mercy.

2. Enemies said (a) used underhand methods (b) exercised unscrupulous cleverness to get way & (c) Adulterated message of God.

## C. Corrupt

2 Cor. 2:17 - "For we are not as many

1. When we listen to self & stop listening to God our message is corrupted.

2. Test your ideas by God's will.

3. Was Paul guilty of lining his pockets by gospel? His motives will stand the way.

D. Make void 5. He knew what God thought of him

Mk. 7:13 - "Making the word of God of

1. Does Korban mean "gift" like one already on altar to God.

2. Completely set apart - Could put on altar & not help parents

3. Jesus attacks system that puts rules above human needs. Rules that prevent a man giving help are wrong.

## E. Pervert

Gal. 1:6-9 - "I marvel that ye are so

1. Paul taught grace - Judicizers circumcision

2. They felt you got credit entries.

3. "taught must earn grace.

4. Said he made it too easy.

5. Not satisfy claims of law but rather meet obligations of love. Can't give unless to ones you love.

6. He wore brand of Christ - scars of battle.

7. What is cost of us nothing is cheap!



## F. Add to

(3)

Deut. 4:2 - "Ye shall not add unto the

Deut. 12:32 = "What thing soever I comma

Prov 30:5-6 Add thou not... lest false liars.

## G. Take From

Rev. 22:18-19 - "If any man shall

1. Don't distort teachings of book

## H. Go beyond

2 Jn. 9 - "Whosoever transgresseth

1. From GK "to go out in advance"

2. What about progressive, adventurous minds

3. Anchor all to Jesus

## III. What can he do with it?

### A. Receive it

Mark 23:20 - "Behold I have received

→ James 1:21 - Wherefore lay apart all f.

1. This word is from God, not discovery of man

2. Tells about God as man could not have discovered it himself

3. Spoken message - comes thru living personality,

4. We must listen, take to ourselves, digest.

(4)  
B. I can obey it.

Mark 23:26-"All that the Lord'speaketh

→ Romans 6:17-18-"But God be thanked that

C. I can let it guide.

Isa. 8:20-"To the law and to the

I Pet. 4:11-"If any man speak, let

2 Cor. 5:7-"We walk by faith

Rom. 10:17-"Faith cometh by hearing

→ 2 Tim. 3:15-17-"And that from a child

Heb. 8:5-"Make all things according to

D. I can study it and handle aright.

Acts 17:11-"Now these were more noble

2 Tim. 2:15

1. Do we know what we are & what we believe?

E. Judged by it

In 12:47-48 "And if any man hear

1. Hearing brings a privilege & responsibility

Westend 3/10/68



# HOW'D THE BIBLE GET HERE ANYHOW?

2 Pet. 1:19

I. The origin of books is interesting.

- A. Mood of author.
- B. Occasion for it.
- C. Compilation of material.

II. How'd we get our Bible?

A. Tell story of Transfiguration.

Matt. 17:1-8      Lu. 9:30-31

1. It shows Christ the redemptive fulfillment of the OT prophets.

2. There is a continuity of God revealing Himself to man - Jesus had 3 c Him on Mt.

3. Luke talks of:

a.) Glory - splendor.

b.) Departure.

(1) Exodus.

(2) Going out.

(3) He wins deliverance for his folks as Moses did via Exodus.

c.) Accomplished.

(1) To fill up to the full.

(2) Complete, carry out.

(3) In dark hour Christ is on the offensive.

Lu. 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice

Jn. 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because

(4) His death is voluntary - I lay down.

(5) It is vicarious (good shepherd lays down life for sheep (John 10:11).

(6) It's victorious - (I lay it down that I may take it again (Jn. 10:17-18).

d.) Word is sure because Christ answered to it.

B. Now go to II Pet. 1:19.

1. We are invited above to "pay attention."

a.) Inspired word has a transforming influence upon the believers.

b.) "The proof of the inspiration of the Scriptures is their power to inspire."

c.) The Bible is the invention of good men or angels bad men or devils, or God—quote.

2. The Bible comes to us by the inspiration of God.

3. What does this verse mean?

II Pet. 1:20-21 "Knowing this first, that no prophecy

a.) No prophecy came by the impulse of man (RSV)

b.) "Know this" - Scriptures give us the mind & thought of God as revealed to man.

c.) Man wants to supplant God.

d.) He prejudices the divine revelation on the basis of inadequate factual knowledge.

e.) R. Catholicism exalts conciliar decisions & papal utterance to a position above the judgement of God as revealed will - makes God subservient to will of man. We judge God rather than submit.

f.) Don't take Scripture out of context.

g.) Private = one's own interpretation = loosening or untying a hard knot.

h.) Give a contextual consideration.

# IRREFUTABLE IS THE GUIDANCE BY THE BIBLE AS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD

I. I am one who stands in constant need.

A. I've never lived this day before.

B. I do not know how many more days I have nor where they will be spent.

C. I see my compatriots fall & attend their burial--unmistakably such is the lot for me--where do I go?

II. I ask for help!

A. But you haven't been here before either--Hanibal, Napoleon, Patton were here but not today!

B. The only help I can get must be divine--where did God speak to me?--That's my quest & question.

1. Does God exist?

2. Is there a written record for me?

III. I believe God unerringly has spoken.

Heb. 1:1 "God who at sundry times

A. What were those divers manners?

1. Gen. 19 - angels.

2. Gen. 37 - Dreams.

3. Dan. 7:1 - Visions.

4. Judges 6:37 - Miracles.

5. I Sam. 3:4 - Voice "The Lord called S.

6. Ps. 19:1 - Nature "The heavens declare

- B. How does He today?

1. Ans. - By His word!



John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word

John 1:14 "And the word was made

Lu. 24:27 "And beginning at Moses & all

Lu. 24:44 "All things must be fulfilled

Matt. 5:17 "Think not that I am come

2. This Word He revealed to us.

Jn. 5:39 "Search the Scrp: for in them

IV. These Scriptures (Writings) make claims for themselves.

A. 50 x called Scriptures.

2 Tim. 3:14-17 "But continue there in the

1. Holy - sacred.

2. Able to make wise.

3. Inspired.

4. 4 fold usage.

5. Complete.

2 Pet. 1:3 "According as his divine

Jude 3 "Contend earnestly for the f.

B. 92 x in N.T. "It is written" with the ring of finality.

Matt. 4:4 "It is written man shall

7 "It is written thou shalt not

10 "It is written thou shalt worship

Matt. 21:13 "It is written my house shall

Matt. 26:24 "The Son of Man goeth as it

Lu. 10:26 "He saith unto him, 'What is

Jn. 6:45 "It is written in the pro. and

C. It has authority.

Rom. 15:4 "And whatsoever things were

Matt. 21:42 "Jesus... Did ye never read

Matt. 22:29 "Ye do err, not knowing

Jn. 10:35 'Serp. cannot be broken

D. It has authority because it is word.

Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick

Jn. 17:17 "Sanctify them thru thy tr.

Acts 18:11 "And he continued 1 1/2

Mk. 7:13 Making the word of God of

1. I have 3 choices for authority.

(a) Tradition or authority of church.

(b) Human reasoning.

(c) Bible.

2. I take latter.

E. They claim supernatural quality.

1. Inspired.

2 Tim. 3:16

2. Unbreakable.

John 10:35

3. Imperishable.

Matt. 5:18 "Till heaven & earth pass

4. Guide.

2 Pet. 1:19-21 "We have also a more

Ps. 18:30 "The word of the Lord is tried

5. Oracles.

Rom. 3:2 "Because unto them

6. Outline of purpose.

Eph. 1:4-5 "According as he hath

7. Exist to be obeyed.

Jn. 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my

I Jn. 5:3 "For this is the love of God



## 8. Cleanses.

Jn. 15:3 Now ye are clean thru

Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid

## 9. Saves.

Rom. 1:16

## 10. Judges.

Jn. 12:47-48 "And if any man

## V. Some quibbles:

A. "It is true in spiritual matters but off historically."

1. How can you be certain about Christ if you have an uncertain word about Him?
2. How could Bethel meme be inaccurate and the Babe virgin born accurate?
3. And an imperfect record give the perfect sound of a symphony?

Jn. 3:12 "If I have told you earthly

B. "The Bible contains the word of God."

1. It says it is. *by me & his word was in my mouth*

2 Sam. 23:2 "The Spirit of the Lord spak

Acts 4:25 "Who by the mouth of thy *servant*

2. Who knows which part is which? *David*

3. Granted, it does record opposing views as in Job but God unerringly set it forth

C. "It becomes the Word of God when you have existential encounter."

1. It already is word - my TV is a TV whether it's turned on or not.



D. "There is a general air of inspiration that perfumes it all."

Exo. 20:1 "God spake all these words

Nu. 1:1 "And the Lord spake unto Moses

Deut. 4:2 "Ye shall not all unto the w.

1. Told the words to use.

(a) A bar of music is made of notes--  
change one, you change the music.

(b) So c word.

2. Men were men, not machines. They were not human typewriters God punched full personalities are there.

C. "Man told you which Books were inspired

1. God bestowed canonicity Man discovered or recognized.

2. Earmarks.

(a) Written by men of God?

(b) Does it come c the authority of God.

(c) Does it tell the truth about God?

(d) Does it edify & purify.

(e) Was it early accepted by peoples of God?

(f) Was it the O. T. part confirmed by Jesus' quotes? (He quotes 15 of 22 O. T. books--covers same as our 39--some are combined. He never quotes one of 12 Apocraphical Books).

(g) Were they apostolic or apostolic companionship (Mark & Luke) in origin?

## VI. Conclusion.

- A. God in the Bible has unerringly spoken.
- B. It claims to be his writings, his word, authoritative, & supernatural.
- C. Quibbles arise but my faith & hope is in this message not the mess of man's musings.
- 1. Like Christ, Bible is of dual origin.
  - (a) Christ from God & man  
Bible Divine & human in origin.
  - (b) Christ w/o sin; Bible w/o error.
  - (c) Both are true, unchangeable & came thru Jewish nation.

West End 4-25-71

Karin Collins - Baph.



## Why We Believe The BIBLE

Rev 18:22-

1. Let it set awhile---gets heavy.

2. Importance of the subject.

3. Method of proving it:

A. external.

B. internal.

4. No God like the God of the Bible.

A WE believe in God because Atheism, the only other alternative can't be prove

B. WE have right and wrong complex so there must be one to give it to us.

C. Makes greatest claims:

1. Is a father, creator, remember B. Franklin "You're joking."

2. Is a spirit, can't imagine Him.

3. Such display of love and fury.

Rev 31:15



D. Answer to our quest ions i.e. who hold the sea in place.

5. No Book like the Bible.

A. Suffered the most attacks yet good anvil

B. Intelligence of varied writers yet O.K.

C. Geography of the Bible:

1. go up.

2. Matt. Maury & paths of the sea.

3. sea one bed.

D. Prophecies fulfilled-Babylon Is. 13:19-

E. great men accept it-Lincoln, Adams, Kant

Rousseau, Ruskin, Newton Scott (1 book)

6. No Savior but Christ.

A. Buddah Moslem, must be a Christ.

B. No one else claims to save you.

C. Fulfilled prophecy (birth && coming and burial-rich in death.



#2

D. Offers the most perfect way of life.

E. will save.

7. No people like the people of the Bible.

A. love for each other.

B. strangers here.

C. closest bond there is.

D. happiest people there is.

E. nothing like the church.

8. Invitation.

Used Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 1942 Griffich Springs